

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic Nanzattico Archaeological Site name

other names/site number 44KG6

2. Location

street & number 1 3/4 Miles SW of Routes 3/625 at Index xx not for publication
city or town Town of Index vicinity
state Virginia code VA county King George code 099 Zip 22572

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally xx statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: other (explain):

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the

National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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Nanzattico Archaeological Site
King George County, Virginia

name of property
location

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

___ building(s)
 ___ district
1 site
 ___ structure
 ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
0	0 buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
0	0 structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
1	0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)Cat: Domestic Sub: Village Site[illegible]

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Agriculture Sub: Agricultural Field

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
roof N/A
walls N/A
other N/A

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
-

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King George County, Virginia

name of property
location

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Archaeology, Prehistoric

Period of Significance A.D. 900-1607 (Late
Woodland Period)

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation Late Woodland Period

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 15

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 _____ 2 _____
3 _____ 4 _____

-** See continuation sheet.

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: E. Randolph Turner, III Archaeologist/Director, Portsmouth Regional Office
organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources date April 28, 2003
street & number: 612 Court Street, 3rd Flr. telephone 757-396-6709
city or town Portsmouth state VA zip code 23704

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
street & number 4010 West Broad Street telephone 804-367-1000
city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23230

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Nanzattico Archaeological (Name of Property)
Site (location)
King George County, Virginia

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7. Summary Description:

The Nanzattico Archaeological Site (44KG6) is located in King George County, Virginia on the north bank of the Rappahannock River at the Lands End Wildlife Management Area. First identified in 1972, Nanzattico represents a Late Woodland (ca. A.D. 900 – 1607) Native American village. Archaeological testing in 1995 documented the presence of well-preserved subsurface archaeological deposits, with the village encompassing approximately 15 acres.

Background

Situated in King George County, Virginia, the Nanzattico Archaeological Site (44KG6) is within the Lands End Wildlife Management Area administered by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The site is at the edge of a cultivated field with the Rappahannock River to the south, Jetts Creek to the east, and Long Point to the west. The dominant soil at and surrounding Nanzattico is Wickam fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slope, one of the most fertile and productive soils in the region, particularly from the perspective of Native American cultivation.

Nanzattico was listed in the state's archaeological inventory as 44KG6 in 1972 by Howard A. MacCord, Sr., then an archaeologist with the Virginia State Library. During the same year it was placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register. While no subsurface testing was conducted at that time, MacCord did obtain a substantial surface collection over an approximately six-acre area which included principally ceramics dating to the Late Woodland period (ca. A.D. 900 - 1607). Most common are shell-tempered Townsend ceramics typical of much of the Virginia Coastal Plain. Of particular importance is the presence of sand-tempered Potomac Creek-like ceramics dating to the latter part of the Late Woodland period and which are most common to the north along the Potomac River. Their presence likely represents the southward expansion of Potomac Creek culture into the Rappahannock River Valley shortly before or perhaps during early European contact in the region.

In 1995 the Virginia Department of Historic Resources conducted limited archaeological test excavations at Nanzattico which documented well-preserved subsurface deposits. Based on excavations in seven portions of the site and encompassing approximately 56 square meters (14 two meter by two meter test units), intact village midden and multiple features such as trash pits

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Nanzattico Archaeological
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were identified with well-preserved faunal and botanical material. Of particular importance was a Late Woodland ossuary containing the remains of approximately 50 persons who had been buried here. Supplementing excavations, a comprehensive surface examination in association with shovel tests defined the site as measuring approximately 1250 by 800 feet and encompassing 15 acres. Further, this testing documented, as with earlier examinations, the presence across the site of both Townsend and Potomac Creek-like ceramics. While excavations were very limited in scope, it is clear that Nanzattico represents a well-preserved Native American village likely spanning several centuries. Also present at Nanzattico are lithic artifacts spanning the entire Archaic period (ca. 8000 – 1500 B.C.) as well as ceramic and lithic artifacts from the Early/Middle Woodland period (ca. 1500 B.C – A. D. 900), although it is unknown if intact subsurface deposits still survive from these earlier occupations at the site.

While no archaeological evidence currently exists for an historic component to the site, it is possible that occupation at Nanzattico extended into the seventeenth century A.D. An examination of Captain John Smith's 1612 map of Virginia shows one village Kerahocak at the approximate location of the site of Nanzattico. Kerahocak was one of several settlements in the Pissaseck district or petty chiefdom which by 1607 was part of the Powhatan paramount chiefdom encompassing most of coastal Virginia. While Nanzattico is the leading candidate for the location of Kerahocak, additional archaeological research is needed at both Nanzattico and on adjacent properties before this can be conclusively demonstrated.

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8. Statement of Significance

The Nanzattico Archaeological Site (44KG6) is significant in that it can address important archaeological issues related to the evolution and structural organization of chiefdom societies in eastern North America. Nanzattico meets the following criterion established by the National Register of Historic Places:

Criterion D. The site has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in history, namely

- * The site contains well-preserved archaeological deposits that can provide significant new information on Native American lifeways and community organization during the Late Woodland period (ca. A.D. 900-1607), including adaptive changes associated with the evolution of a chiefdom society.
- * The site contains archaeological evidence of both a pan-coastal tradition representative of the Powhatan chiefdom as well as spatially discrete evidence of excursions into the Rappahannock River valley by the Patawomekes to the north, thereby providing potentially significant new evidence on conflicts between the Powhatan and Patawomeke chiefdoms at the end of the Late Woodland period, conflicts which help define the local Native American political landscape described by the English upon their arrival in coastal Virginia in A.D. 1607.

Background

The Nanzattico Archaeological Site is a 15-acre Late Woodland (ca. A.D. 900 –1607) Native American village. It is in an excellent state preservation with intact village midden and features still present, along with both faunal and botanical remains. As such its archaeological deposits contain significant information for regional environmental adaptations and settlement pattern studies, internal community organization, subsistence practices, and socio-political and religious organization. The Late Woodland period represents a critical period of population growth among Native American societies in what today we call Virginia. Explanation of such growth and the changes accompanying it among Native American lifeways is dependent upon

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research at sites such as Nanzattico where significant archaeological deposits remain well-preserved.

Due to the documented presence of well-preserved burials at Nanzattico, the site also is likely to be significant for regional studies on Late Woodland period demography and mortuary practices. Human skeletal remains should provide significant data on possible dietary stresses and diseases local populations were facing just prior to European contact in the region. Related, during the Late Woodland period, major changes in socio-cultural complexity were occurring as populations evolved from egalitarian tribal societies into ranked societies known as chiefdoms. This process of centralization of socio-political and religious authority is most easily studied archaeologically through variations in mortuary practices as manifested at sites characterized by well-preserved burial remains such as at Nanzattico.

Nanzattico also contains significant evidence of both a pan-coastal tradition representative of the Powhatan chiefdom as well as spatially discrete evidence of excursions into the Rappahannock River valley by the Patawomekes to the north. This is seen in the Native American ceramics found at Nanzattico. Most common are shell-tempered Townsend ceramics typical of much of the Virginia Coastal Plain, although also present are large numbers of sand-tempered Potomac Creek-like ceramics dating to the latter part of the Late Woodland period and which are most common to the north along the Potomac River. Their presence likely represents the southward expansion of Potomac Creek culture into the Rappahannock River Valley shortly before or perhaps during early European contact in the region. The occurrence of both ceramic traditions at Nanzattico provides potentially significant new evidence on conflicts between the Powhatan and Patawomeke chiefdoms at the end of the Late Woodland period, conflicts which help define the local Native American political landscape described by the English upon their arrival in coastal Virginia in A.D. 1607.

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10. Geographical Data

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	315400	4225340
2	18	315280	4225560
3	18	315630	4225670
4	18	315730	4225620
5	18	315540	4225380

Verbal Boundary Description

The Nanzattico Archaeological Site has a curvilinear shape measuring approximately 1250 by 800 feet and encompassing 15 acres in the southeastern corner of an agricultural field with the confluence of Jetts Creek and the Rappahannock River directly to the east.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the nominated site are restricted to that area where surface collections and subsurface testing have shown contiguous archaeological deposits to be present.